

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, beginning at line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Specific means for obtaining a liquid crystal interface alignment which renders liquid crystal equivalently energetically stable in the plural alignment directions in the substrate surface is employment of an alignment layer having undergone anchoring treatment in plural directions ~~whose~~ which form equal angles relative to one another in the substrate surface, wherein the anchoring treatment in each of the plural directions is performed in such a manner that the ~~rising (pre-tilt)~~ pre-tilt angle of liquid crystal molecules in the corresponding anchoring direction with respect to the substrate surface becomes substantially zero.

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, beginning at line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The alignment layer provides the same action even when the number of anchoring directions is greater than two, except for the condition of ~~rising (pre-tilt)~~ pre-tilt angles, which will be described later.

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, beginning at line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, even in the above-described case in which the two anchoring directions in the substrate surface form about 90°, when anchoring force is provided to the alignment layer through rubbing treatment, which is generally used as a treatment for providing anchoring force, the liquid crystal alignment direction has a ~~rising~~ pre-tilt angle with respect to the substrate surface (pre-tilt angle of at least 1°, typically in the range of several to several tens

of degrees in the case of ordinary rubbing treatment) which is generated naturally, and therefore, breaking of symmetry due to the ~~rising~~ pre-tilt angle must be considered as well.

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, beginning at line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The in-plane switching may be effected by a method in which the above-described alignment layer which renders liquid crystal energetically stable in a plurality of alignment directions is disposed on each of two substrates in order to cause ~~in-plane~~ in-plane switching at both substrate interfaces; or a method in which the above-described alignment layer is disposed on one of the substrates, and alignment capability is imparted to the other substrate by means of ordinary rubbing treatment. In either case, the characteristic of wide viewing angle due to in-plane switching can be realized.

Please replace the paragraph at page 14, beginning at line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Next, after a solution of SE7210 (product of Nissan Chemical Industries, Ltd.), which is solvent-soluble polyimide precursor, was applied to the insulating film IL2, the substrate SUB1 was heated to ~~200°~~ 200°C and then allowed to stand for 30 minutes to thereby obtain a dense polyimide film.

Please replace the paragraph at page 19, beginning at line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Specifically, a mixture of diamine compounds containing equimolar amounts of 4,4'-diaminodiphenylmethane and a compound of Formula 1 having a ~~diazobenzene~~ diazobenzene group was treated with an acid anhydride of pyromellitic dianhydride and/or 1,2,3,4-

cyclobutanetetracarboxylic acid, to thereby form a mixture of polyamic acids. After being applied to the substrate surface, the mixture of polyamic acids was fired at 200°C for 30 minutes to thereby be imidized. By use of GaN a laser light (wavelength: 420 nm), the same pattern as that used in the first embodiment was formed on the surface to thereby complete an alignment layer.

Please replace the paragraph at page 27, beginning at line 24, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Next, ~~an eighth~~ a ninth embodiment of the present invention will be described.